THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pakistan TV has recently leased a transponder on ASIASAT for TV uplinking application. Since the usable contours of ASIASAT footprint cover the entire country except some parts of southern India, TV programmes transmitted by this satellite can be received by installation of an appropriately designed dish antenna indigenously available with the TV receiving set. However, the existing licensing procedure prescribed by the Ministry of Communications does not permit establishment of dish antenna for receiving of TV programmes from foreign satellites.

(c) in order to counter telecasts transmitted via foreign satellites Doordarshan is making all out efforts to bring about qualitative improvement in its programme format so as to sustain the interest of its viewers.

Screening of video film on dangers of Poisonous Pesticides

1309. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE :
PROF. I.G. SANADI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCATING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a video film entirely financed by DST and produced by PTI-T V highlighting the dangers of poisonous pesticides and safe alternatives developed by ICAR has been widely appreciated and acclaimed ;

(b) whether Government will ensure its screening in colleges and schools and among farmers groups;

(c) whether it is a fact that the video film was to be screened on the national programme on 12th September, 1991 but this was cancelled at the last minute; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a similar screening on Krishi Darshan in December, 1991 was also cancelled at the last minute, if so, whether an inquiry will be conducted in this regard ; and

(e) whether Government are aware that similar videos are being regularly shown on Star TV (BBC programmes) ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) to (d) Telecast of a documentary film 'The killing Fields' supplied by the Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi was scheduled by Doordarshan on 12-09-91 and 31-12-91. However the film could not be telecast as the copyright holder's status and the terms for payment of royalty etc. were not clear. The telecast of this film after completing the necessary formalities is however dependent on the programme requirement of Doordarshan. The right holder of the film can organise screening of the film in Colleges and Schools directly.

(e) Government are aware that programmes on environment/health related themes are telecast by various foreign television networks.

Commissioned serials on T V

1310. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated fresh guidelines in respect

of commissioned serials on T.V.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The salient features of the guidelines for consideration, processing and approval of proposals received from outside producers for telecast of TV programmes under the Commissioned Programmes Scheme, issued as on 01-01-1992 are given in the Statement.

Statement

Salient features of the guidelines of commissioned programmes

1. Doordarshan will consider all proposals received on a particular subject in one lot taking into account the subject, programme format, treatment and script and select those which are suitable to Doordarshan depending on the programme requirement.

2. The proposal for commissioned programme should be accompanied with break-up of the story episode-wise In addition to giving complete synopsis of each episode. The applicant is required to submit a demand draft for Rs. 2000/- while submitting the application. Bio-data of the production team is also required to be submitted along with the cosent of the copy right holder of any published work if the work is the basis for production.

3. All the proposals received by Doordarshan will be suitably acknowledged and will be placed before the evaluation committee.

4. The evaluation committee will examine the proposal and decide upon their acceptability based on the following criteria:—

(a) Relevance of the story theme or the subject to the need of Doordarshan.

(b) Treatment of the subject/ storyline.

(c) Conformity of the telecast code.

(d) Track record of the Director, Producer, Writer, Crew etc.

(e) Requirements of Doordarshan at a given time or at a future date.

(f) Reasonableness of budget vis-a-vis production needs taking into account the prevailing cost for rental for equipment, travel, fees of professionals, costumes, locations, research, etc.

(g) That the proposed programme falls within the guidelines prescribed by Government for Certification of films for public exhibition by the Central Board of Film Certification.

5. The Chairman of the evaluation committee will be the Director General.

6. The evaluation committee shall cosists of Chairman, three non-officials, DDG concerned, DDG (commissioned programmes) and ADG (Admn.)

7. The evaluation committee will decide the number of episodes, duration of the Episode and also the cost of production.

8. The applicant is required to submit a Bank guarantee for the amount advanced to him.

9. The schedule of payment will be as follows:

(i)	After signing of the agreement and furnishing of Bank Guarantee	10% of total cost
(ii)	After approval of rough cuts	50% of total cost
(iii)	On delivery and approval of the final prints	20% of total cost
(iv)	On completion of formalities like submission of nagatives, sound track, photographs, copies of scripts, etc.	20% of total cost

Doordarshan will deduct 2% income tax at source while releasing payments as per the above schedule.

10. The producer is required to adhere to the time limit prescribed by Doordarshan, failing which Doordarshan is at liberty to invoke bank guarantee.

11. The evaluation committee will also preview rough cuts on the programme.

12. The sole arbitrator for any dispute or disagreement will be the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

13. Doo-darshan can also draw up a panel of producers on the basis of the track record for assigning programmes.

Launching of a Hindi Channel by Star T.V.

1311. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hongkong based Star T.V. is launching a Hindi channel, if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to meet effectively the challenge of foreign programmes received through satellites in India; and

(c) if so the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) to (c) Reports to this effect appearing in Press have come to the notice of the Government. Programmes from CNN, Star TV, etc. are available only to those viewers who have installed a suitable Dish Antenna. Constant efforts continue to be made by Doordarshan to upgrade the technology and to bring about qualitative improvement in the programme contents and formate so as to sustain interest of its viewers.

Publication of foreign newspapers in India

1312. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted foreign newspapers to start their publication in India; and

(b) if so, what are its terms and coditions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.